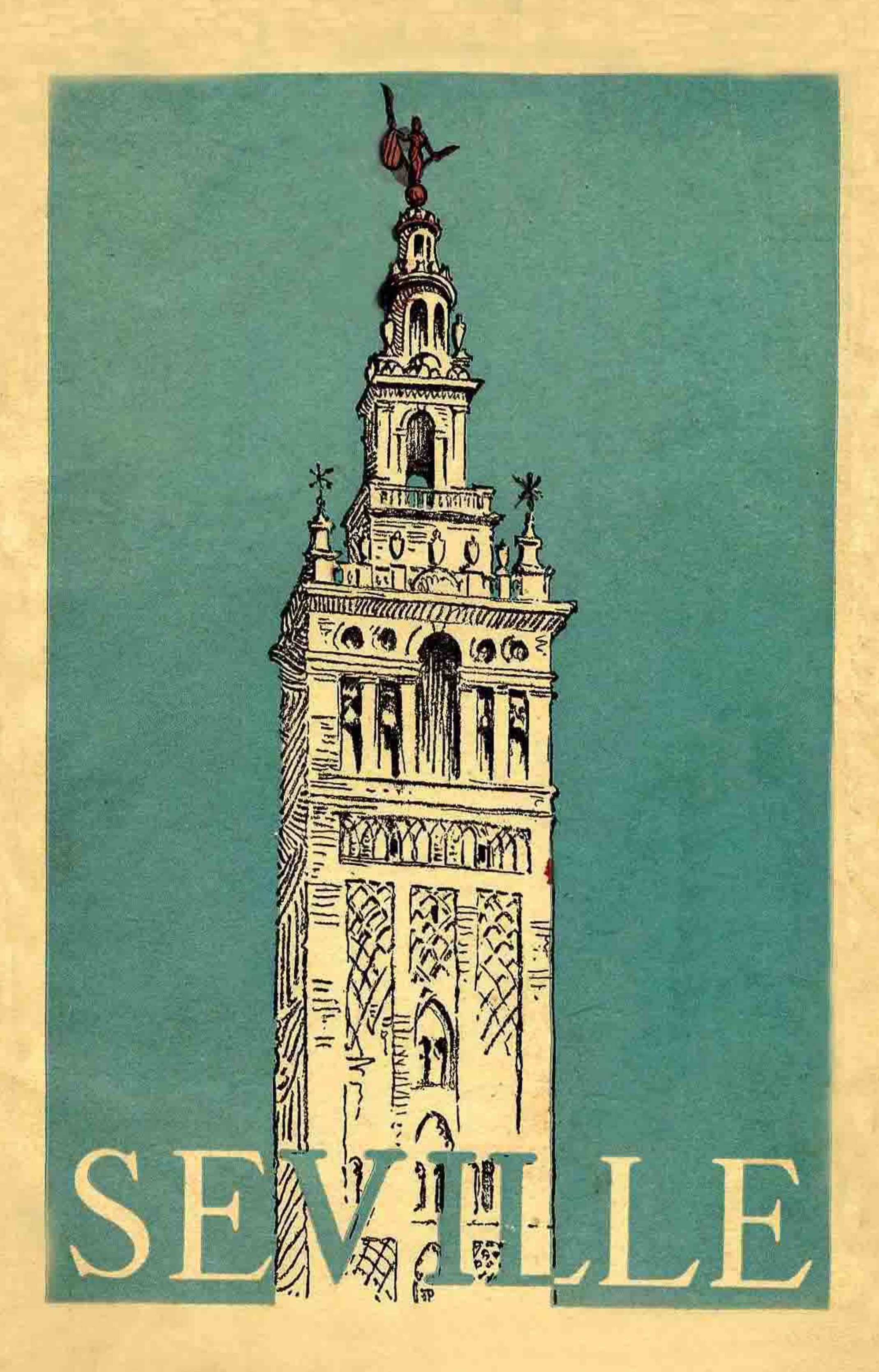
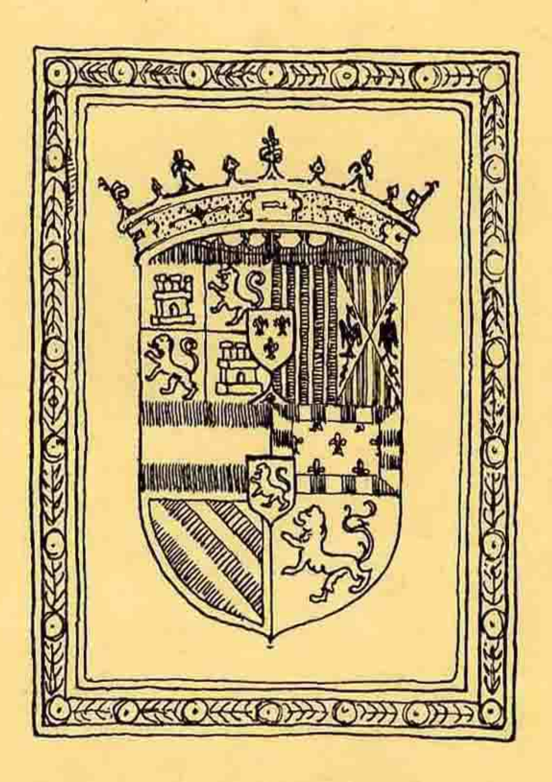

SEVILLE

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A Street in Seville

SEVILLE

VERY visitor to sunny Spain has felt the fascination of Seville, the most attractive city in Andalusia. Seville is indeed an Oriental town, vibrating with light and color under a clear blue sky.

Visit her, and you will see her ancient streets, narrow and winding. In them centuries of history and legend lie asleep.

Consider her marvelous Moorish patios, the delicate work of the wrought iron doors, covered with fragrant flowers—and perhaps you may still see the poetic figure of a mediaeval lover draw near.

Those who enjoy Art and Archaeology may rest assured that in Seville the treasure store is inexhaustible: The Cathedral, the Alcazar, the Museum, the House of Pilate, the famous ruins of Italica.

Those who enjoy religious festivals may watch the sumptuous processions during Holy Week and the impressive ceremonies in the Cathedral. And those who seek the picturesque will find pleasure in the fairs, pilgrimages and popular festivals.

Seville has splendid boulevards and quiet parks. The city rests on the banks of the river Guadalquivir upon a great plain covered with gardens, white farm houses, vineyards, estates and pastures. Not only is the city

itself unique for its beauty and individuality, but the suburbs also are charming. The famous villages of Fuente del Arzobispo, Ventas, Dehesa de Tablada, and the grounds of the Convent of San Jeronimo are full of interest and unusual beauty. The gold of the oranges gleams through the green, the air is fragrant with honeysuckle and jasmine, and one feels that poetry, mystery and romance lie just around the corner.

There is no city in Spain with a greater air of leisure and a gayer personality than Seville. Its individuality is so overwhelming that the visitor may be satisfied merely to wander about through the narrow streets, the old Jewish quarters and the luxurious gardens. But he must also visit the splendid art treasures that the city possesses.

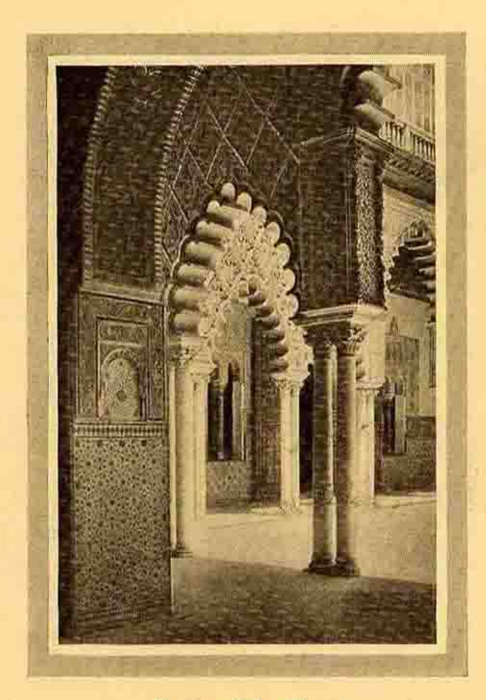
There is the famous Cathedral, ranking next to St. Peter's in size, one of the handsomest and richest Gothic churches in the world. It occupies the spot on which stood an old Moorish Mosque built in the early tenth century. It is one of the few Cathedrals in Spain to stand isolated in the center of a square. To enter this magnificent Gothic building you have to go through the Moorish gate called Puerta del Perdon (Gate of Pardon), then you cross an oriental court called Patio de los Naranjos (The Court of Oranges), a brilliant patio filled with shining green and gold. Once inside the Cathedral, the visitor feels impressed and insignificant in the midst of its lofty columns, high graceful arches and multicolor stained windows.



The Garden of the Alcazar

In the mysterious shadows of this Cathedral, with its beautiful architecture, its rare paintings, solemn music, processional splendor, intricate embroideries, glittering jewels and clouds of perfumed incense, one feels keenly the yearnings of holy aspirations and the profound appeal of mystical devotion.

There are many places of interest within the Cathedral where the visitor may linger. The Royal Chapel contains the tomb of King Alfonso X, known as the "Sabio" "Learned" (1254-1284), and here too the body of St. Ferdinand, who was king of Spain in the 13th century, lies at rest. The royal body is greatly venerated by the inhabi-



Interior of the Alcazar

tants of Seville and is exhibited to the public four times a year—on May 14th and 30th, August 22nd, and November 23rd. On the high altar of this quaint chapel stands the figure of the Virgen de los Reyes, a figure of the 13th century, which, as the legend goes, was given by St. Louis, King of France, to St. Ferdinand, of Spain.

At the other end of the Cathedral there is a very small chapel used as a baptistry. On one of its walls hangs one of Murillo's masterpieces, "St. Anthony's Vision of the Holy Child," painted in 1656. This painting, famous for its exquisite coloring and idealism, has had an interesting career. In 1874 the figure of the kneeling saint was cut out of the canvas and brought to the United States, but the following year it was returned to the Cathedral of

Seville and skillfully replaced. There are paintings by el Cano, by Valdés Leal, by Juan de Rodelas, of the old Spanish school of painting, and the priceless "bas reliefs" by Pedro Roldán and Montañez. In the south transept stands the sarcophagus of Christopher Columbus, supported by four allegoric figures in bronze representing the kingdoms of Castile, Leon, Navarre and Aragon. In the splendor of the magnificent Cathedral the remains of the great discoverer are now at rest.



Convent of Santa Paula

The Giralda, standing guard near the Cathedral, rises into the blue sky and overlooks the whole city. This tower is one of the greatest Moorish monuments in Spain and is representative of all that is best in Arabic Art. It



The Cathedral and the Giralda

was erected in the 12th century as a minaret or prayer tower of the principal Moorish mosque, but part of the building material was taken from the remains of old Roman structures, which explains why so many Roman inscriptions are found on its walls. One should ascend this tower toward evening; by climbing an easy inclined plane of 35 sections ending in 16 steps, one reaches the first gallery which affords a limitless view. It is said that the 24 bells of the Giralda were christened with holy oil and all of them bear names such as "La Gorda" (The Fat), "El Cantor" (The Singer), "San Juan" (St. John), etc. During Holy Thursday and Good Friday the bells of the Giralda are silent and one hears only the sound of the "matraca," a strange wooden bell which is struck with clappers.

Across the cobbled square is the Alcazar, a Moorish palace that has been used as a residence by the Spanish sovereigns since the 14th century. The Alcazar has been altered, torn down in parts and rebuilt by several of the Spanish kings who lived in it, but Moorish builders were always employed in the work so that it has lost little of its Moorish character. While the Alcazar has not the beauty and splendor of the Alhambra, there is a notable air of distinction and luxury in its oriental rooms and courts with their graceful columns, horseshoe arches, Moorish tiles and mosaic. But even more exquisite than the interior of the palace are its lovely gardens where roses bloom in December, and where fragrant magnolias,



Sunlight and Flowers in Seville

jasmine and honeysuckle perfume the air, where nightingales sing in the myrtles and acacias, while fountains trickle under graceful palm trees. There are many legends about the Alcazar, most of them relating to King Peter the Cruel and his lady love, Doña Maria de Padilla, who lived there in the 14th century.

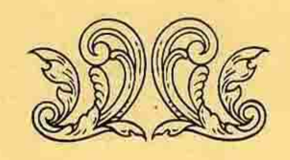
Such is the beauty of these gardens, so great their legendary and romantic charm that the visitor is tempted to linger unduly, but there are still other points of interest for him to visit.

In the little chapel of the Hospital de la Caridad there

are wonderful Murillos which no student of Spanish Art can afford to miss, while the Casa de Pilatos has fine patios and staircases that appeal to the connoisseur of Spanish architecture. Its name comes from the fact that the Marques de Tarifa who built it in the 16th century had made a journey to Jerusalem, and an entirely unfounded belief grew up among the people that he had constructed a replica of Pilate's house.

It is not only the guide book sights of Seville that are interesting. There is endless charm in the narrow streets with white stucco houses, grated windows, overhanging balconies decked with flowers beneath which one has glimpses into delightfully cool and attractive patios.

One must stroll many times through the principal street, the awning-shaded Calle de las Sierpes where vehicles pass and the animated crowd overflows from cafes and theaters into the street itself; one must see the tobacco factory with its "cigarreras" made famous by the opera "Carmen;" one must share in the gay night life of the city and leave at last reluctantly with the feeling of having been a happy guest in fairyland.





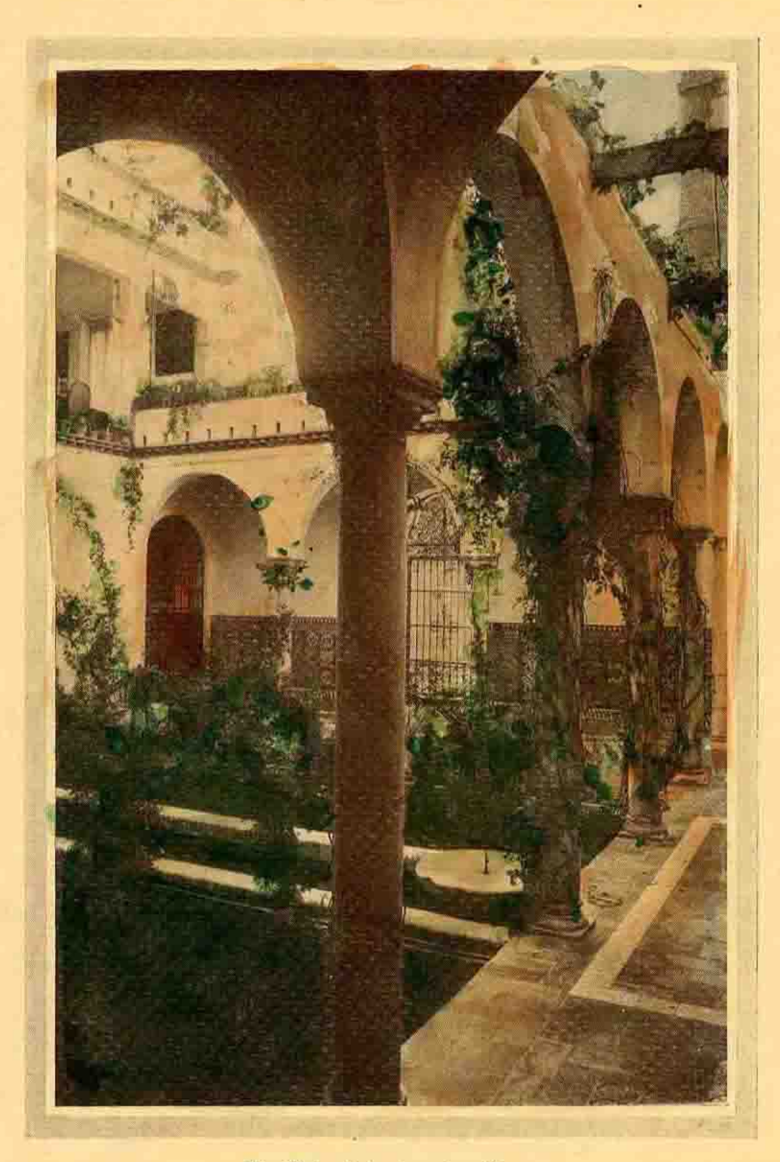
Wrought Iron Cross in Santa Cruz Square

THE SANTA CRUZ DISTRICT

THE wonderful city of Seville, filled with entrancing charm, counts among her innumerable enchantments the "Barrio de Santa Cruz" with its atmosphere of poetry and mystery tinged with tradition. This is not a place of bustle, but of repose, refreshing as a fountain beside the dusty highway of life. Every traveller loves this district, its picturesque little houses, its mysterious streets, and the perfume of its fragrant flowers.

In ancient times the Barrio de Santa Cruz belonged to the Jews, who had bazaars and shops established there. Many of them were rich, and were on friendly terms with the Christians. Among them was a celebrated Jew called Suson, whose daughter was converted to Christianity and became a nun. In her will she directed that her body should be placed in the wall of the house where they lived.

This and many other legends intrigue the visitor of the Barrio de Santa Cruz, where each house, each lattice, patio and wall, crowned with flowering vines, fills the traveller's spirit with enchantment and his imagination with an irresistible and eager curiosity.



The Patio of the American House



The Well and the Fountain



Street Scene in Alcalá

LEGENDS OF THE STREETS

ALL the streets and squares of the Barrio de Santa Cruz have a fascinating legend.

In the plaza of Doña Elvira in olden times there was a famous open space for presenting comedies, where Lope de Rueda, first Spanish playwright, used to take part in the presentation of his own comedies; he was born in Seville in 1500, and like Shakespeare, was author, impresario and comedian. Farther up the street that is now called Rodrigo Caro, the gallants with round uncocked hat, cape and sword, used to gather to break a lance for honor's sake.



The Outskirts of Alcalá

It was along the present day Gloria street that Don Miguel Mañara, a gay free lance, went on a certain day with one of his pages to a house where he had been summoned. At the threshold he fell, laid low by some inexplicable force, and as he fell he heard these words: "Bring the casket for he is dead." When Mañara recovered consciousness he felt so repentant for his past sins that he lived ever after a saintly existence, filled with deeds of charity and brotherly love. For many years thereafter Gloria street was known as the Street of the Casket, to commemorate the fact that near one of its houses the wealthy Don Miguel Mañara received the warning which saved him.

Pepper Street (la calle de la Pimienta), bears this name because a Hebrew spice dealer used to have his shop there. One day he was complaining that he had no pepper for his trade. When a Christian passer-by heard him, he said: "The Lord will provide it." The Jew began to laugh and paid no attention to the Christian. The following morning to his surprise, he saw that a pepper tree had grown up close to the door of his shop. The Jew was moved to tears and was converted. The story goes that for every tear that fell a new pepper grew on the tree.

It is not surprising that Washington Irving was a lover of the Barrio de Santa Cruz, for every traveller finds himself enchanted by the magic of its legends.



Serpent Street (Calle de la Sierpes)

THE CITY OF GARDENS

THE existence of the City of Gardens in the midst of the Barrio de Santa Cruz is largely due to the philanthropy of the Marquis de la Vega Inclan. This illustrious nobleman, carrying out the wishes of His Majesty, Alfonso XIII, purchased many building sites in the barrio, and reconstructed the typical houses of Santa Cruz with unusual artistic taste.

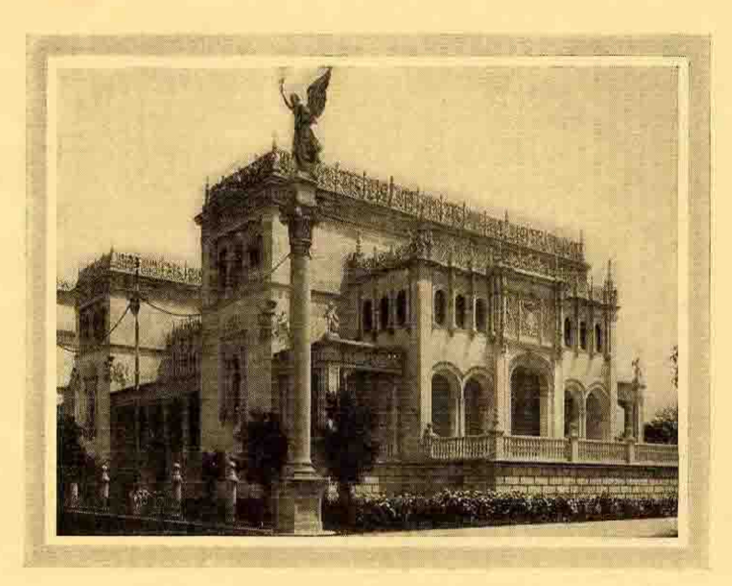
He improved the streets, and beautified this old part of the city with hanging gardens. The ancient wall is literally covered with ivy, geraniums, and rambler roses, which intertwine with the vines from the gardens in front. The doorways of these delightful dwellings are also covered with roses, white, yellow and red. The balconies and flat roofs of the whole district are made gay with a profusion of plants which perfume the air.

The patios or inner courtyards are really private gardens where fountains trickle on multicolored tiles. Their trees form a surprising and artistic panorama interspersed with the large towers of the walls and the belfries of the churches. From the gardens rises the sweet intoxicating fragrance of the orange blossoms, and when the sun has set and the moon is shining, the City of Gardens, under the starry sky, is so beautiful and exquisite, that it brings to mind the mysterious tales from "A Thousand and One Arabian Nights."

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN EXPOSITION

THE Spanish-American Exposition, to be held in Seville within two years, is of great interest to the whole world, but especially to the Spanish-American nations, as an important result of this noteworthy project will be to strengthen even more the bonds of friendship which already exist between Spain, Portugal and the Americas. For the location of the Exposition, Seville has given the beautiful gardens and parks which lie between the city and the Guadalquivir River. Besides being unusually pleasant, this part of the town is the one which will naturally receive the advantages which the city must gain as it grows; a logical development if one considers the ever-increasing commercial and industrial life of the Andalusian capital, and the new activities which will result from the port which is being constructed on the Alfonso XIII canal.

One section of the Exposition will be devoted to tourists' booths and regional displays. Music and dances of every region of Spain will be performed, and there will be bureaus of every kind to organize groups of travelers to visit these regions. Another section will portray the entire development of Spanish art. Pictures, work in precious metals, arms, tapestries and sculpture will be shown. Industries will have their representation in the



The Palace of Beaux Arts

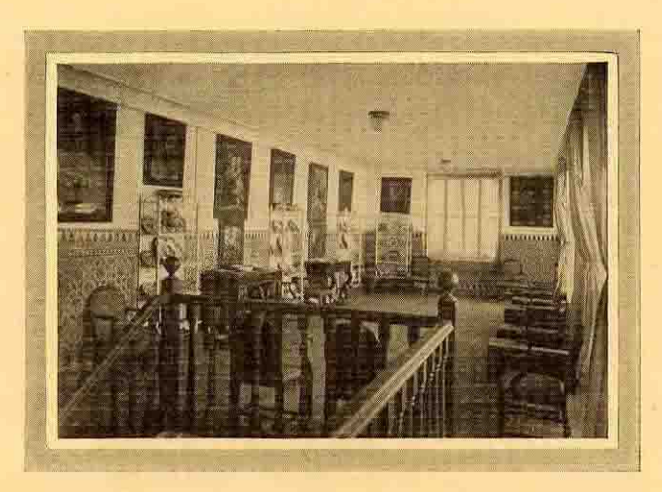
exhibits of automobiles and other manufactured articles and in displays of agricultural products and stock. Anyone who enjoys sports will find plenty of amusement on the grounds where championship matches will be played in tennis, golf, and football.

It is hoped that during the Exposition the Hispano-American College will be inaugurated. The college, which is a work of brotherhood of the peoples of America and Spain, will be administered under the tutelage of the Spanish countries. It will be equipped with excellent laboratories, libraries, archives, classrooms and attractive buildings for resident students.

Many Spanish republics have signified their interest in the Exposition, and they have already begun the construction of their buildings. The United States has appropriated $7,000,000 for its pavilion, the plans for which are being drawn at present.

Seville is preparing to organize several interesting tours. There will be special trains to the leading cities in the country and to the historical towns. Automobile lines will be run to Granada, Cadiz, Malaga, etc., and air lines to most of these cities and to Tetuan, Tanger and Ceuta in Africa. Hotels in Seville are being improved to meet the increasing demands for good accommodations. The famous Madrid Hotel has been enlarged and refitted to suit the most fastidious tastes and a splendid new one, the Alfonso XIII, is under construction to provide every modern comfort for the increased number of visitors.

The purpose of the Spanish-American Exposition is to promote the study and treatment of problems of communication, commerce and finance, and in general, the questions of mutual interest to the Iberian Peninsula and the American countries. And thus Seville, which in former centuries helped to carry civilization to the new world, in the name of Spain, extends an invitation to the western world to assemble within her portals a manifestation of their labor and their art, as an expression of brotherhood which now exists and which will grow stronger with the passing of years.



A Delightful Corner of the Hall

THE AMERICAN HOUSE

ACROSS from the luxuriant gardens of the Alcazar there is a delightful club-house which has been founded by the Marquis de la Vega Inclan, as a meeting place for Americans travelling in Spain. The "Casa de America" is in the very heart of the Barrio de Santa Cruz, the most typically Moorish quarter of the city. In it one finds the stately beauty of an Andalusian palace combined with the simple charm of a Sevillian home. Its most attractive feature is the sunny patio, where fragrant flowers bloom in profusion. A clear jet of water splashes in a marble

fountain, and in a corner an old-fashioned well murmurs of the past. Benches of old Castilian style are placed here and there to tempt the visitor to a moment of refreshing solitude.

Within the house each detail is quaint and artistic, typical of the varied Spanish culture. Furniture, pottery, mosaics, rugs and tapestries harmonize perfectly. The floors are made of simple brick; and the walls, white and glistening, are relieved at intervals by excellent reproductions of the works of great Spanish masters. The main stairway leads to an open corridor commanding a magnificent view of the gardens of the Alcazar. On the other side one may catch delightful glimpses of the "Casa de America" itself. In winter this corridor is enclosed in glass, and folding tables and comfortable chairs of yellow damask make it a most pleasant lounge and music room.


Exterior of the House

The library is an ideal place for retirement. The walls are enriched with rare paintings, and fascinating books of poetry and art lie ready at hand. Very modern, indeed, is the upper floor of the house where several comfortable rooms, exquisitely



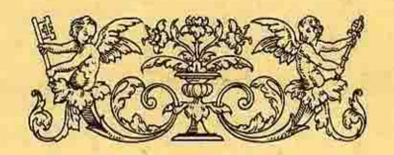
The Patio

furnished, have been set aside as a club for women. The meetings and social affairs held here will doubtless prove an important factor in the life of Seville. This delicate and thoughtful touch is an indication not only of the chivalry of the Spaniard but also of his progressive tendencies which are so often overlooked.

The House of America was formally opened on June 13, 1925, by the infante, Don Carlos, the brother-in-law of the King and the personal representative of His Majesty in the affair; the Marquis de la Vega Inclan, who is in charge of the Royal Bureau of Tourism; and the former Ambassador of the United States to Spain, Mr. Alexander P. Moore. During the ceremony a tablet was unveiled to the memory of Washington Irving, who could

feel and retell so well the original legends of Southern Spain. And now the American has a house of his own in the heart of Andalusia. From its terraces he can see the Giralda, that graceful Moorish tower of singularly harmonious proportions and lace-like delicacy, which keeps guard over the bewitching city. He may spend some of the most perfect hours of his life in Seville, the garden city of Spain, that stretches out her arms every day more eagerly to the countries across the sea.

Photographs on pages 5, 6, 7 and 8 are taken from the Edition "Monumentos y Paisajes de España" Editorial Voluntad, Madrid.





The Gateway to the American House

